

WE CLAIM:

- 1    1.    A method in a computing system for managing inventory, the method  
2       comprising:  
3       extracting inventory balance information in a first form that is associated with  
4               a first source computerized inventory management system;  
5       converting the inventory balance information in the first form into inventory  
6               balance information that is in a second intermediate form; and  
7       converting the inventory balance information in the second intermediate form  
8               into inventory balance information in a target form that corresponds to  
9               a target computerized inventory management system.
- 1    2.    The method of Claim 1, further comprising:  
2       using the inventory balance information in the target form to update an  
3               existing inventory balance record in the target computerized inventory  
4               management system.
- 1    3.    The method of Claim 1, further comprising:  
2       extracting inventory balance information in a third form that is associated with  
3               a second source computerized inventory management system that is  
4               distinct from the first source computerized inventory management  
5               system;  
6       converting the inventory balance information in the third form into inventory  
7               balance information that is in the second intermediate form;

8 converting the inventory balance information in the second intermediate form  
9 into inventory balance information in the target form; and  
10 using the inventory balance information in the target form to update an  
11 existing inventory balance record in the target computerized inventory  
12 management system.

1 4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the second intermediate form includes a list  
2 of inventory balances class with a hierarchy of data elements.

1 5. The method of Claim 4, wherein the hierarchy of data elements includes a  
2 plurality of inventory balance elements that include other elements.

1 6. The method of Claim 5, wherein each of the plurality of inventory balance  
2 elements includes a related inventory location element for defining related  
3 inventory location identifier.

4 7. The method of Claim 5, wherein each of the plurality of inventory balance  
5 elements includes a list of inventory balance data element for defining a  
6 plurality of inventory balance data elements.

1 9. The method of Claim 5, wherein each of the plurality of inventory balance  
2 elements includes an inventory balance custom data.

1 10. The method of Claim 7, wherein each of the plurality of inventory balance  
2 data elements includes a related product element for defining a product  
3 identifier.

1 11. The method of Claim 7, wherein each of the plurality of inventory balance  
2 data elements includes a list of balance data element for defining a plurality of  
3 balance data elements.

1 12. The method of Claim 11, wherein each of the plurality of balance data  
2 elements includes:

3 a bucket code element;  
4 a quantity of product element;  
5 a product unit of measure code element; and  
6 a balance data custom data element.

1 13. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions  
2 for managing inventory, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of  
3 instructions by one or more processors causes the one or more processors to  
4 perform:

5 extracting inventory balance information in a first form that is associated with  
6 a first source computerized inventory management system;  
7 converting the inventory balance information in the first form into inventory  
8 balance information that is in a second intermediate form; and  
9 converting the inventory balance information in the second intermediate form  
10 into inventory balance information in a target form that corresponds to  
11 a target computerized inventory management system.

1 14. The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, further comprising:  
2 using the inventory balance information in the target form to update an  
3 existing inventory balance record in the target computerized inventory  
4 management system.

1 15. The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, further comprising:  
2 extracting inventory balance information in a third form that is associated with  
3 a second source computerized inventory management system that is  
4 distinct from the first source computerized inventory management  
5 system;  
6 converting the inventory balance information in the third form into inventory  
7 balance information that is in the second intermediate form;  
8 converting the inventory balance information in the second intermediate form  
9 into inventory balance information in the target form; and  
10 using the inventory balance information in the target form to update an  
11 existing inventory balance record in the target computerized inventory  
12 management system.

1 16. The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, wherein the second  
2 intermediate form includes a list of inventory balances class with a hierarchy  
3 of data elements.

1 17. The computer-readable medium of Claim 16, wherein the hierarchy of data  
2 elements includes a plurality of inventory balance elements that include other  
3 elements.

1 18. The computer-readable medium of Claim 17, wherein each of the plurality of  
2 inventory balance elements includes a related inventory location element for  
3 defining related inventory location identifier.

- 4 19. The computer-readable medium of Claim 17, wherein each of the plurality of  
5 inventory balance elements includes a list of inventory balance data element  
6 for defining a plurality of inventory balance data elements.
- 1 21. The computer-readable medium of Claim 17, wherein each of the plurality of  
2 inventory balance elements includes an inventory balance custom data.
- 1 22. The computer-readable medium of Claim 19, wherein each of the plurality of  
2 inventory balance data elements includes a related product element for  
3 defining a product identifier.
- 1 23. The computer-readable medium of Claim 19, wherein each of the plurality of  
2 inventory balance data elements includes a list of balance data element for  
3 defining a plurality of balance data.
- 1 24. The computer-readable medium of Claim 23, wherein each of the plurality of  
2 balance data elements includes:  
3 a bucket code element;  
4 a quantity of product element;  
5 a product unit of measure code element; and  
6 a balance data custom data element.
- 1 25. A data structure for managing inventory, the data structure comprising a list of  
2 inventory balances class with a hierarchy of data elements, wherein the  
3 hierarchy of data elements includes a plurality of inventory balance elements  
4 that include other elements.

- 1 26. The data structure of Claim 26, wherein each of the plurality of inventory  
2 balance elements includes a related inventory location element for defining  
3 related inventory location identifier.
- 4 27. The data structure of Claim 26, wherein each of the plurality of inventory  
5 balance elements includes a list of inventory balance data element for  
6 defining a plurality of inventory balance data elements.
- 1 29. The data structure of Claim 26, wherein each of the plurality of inventory  
2 balance elements includes an inventory balance custom data.
- 1 30. The data structure of Claim 27, wherein each of the plurality of inventory  
2 balance data elements includes a related product element for defining a  
3 product identifier.
- 1 31. The data structure of Claim 27, wherein each of the plurality of inventory  
2 balance data elements includes a list of balance data element for defining a  
3 plurality of balance data.
- 1 32. The data structure of Claim 31, wherein each of the plurality of balance data  
2 elements includes:  
3 a bucket code element;  
4 a quantity of product element;  
5 a product unit of measure code element; and  
6 a balance data custom data element.